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16

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CHRISTMAS APPEAL

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA



THE PIONEER

FOR PRAYER

GIVE THANKS : for so many opportunities of presenting the Gospel over the past year, by the varied work of evangelism of officers of the Church

Army. for the many people throughout Australia who have supported our work over the year, by prayer and by giving, especially those who

for the young men and women who are being called to be evangelists in the

Church Army, and have enquired about training. Pray for those who are seeking God's Will in this matter. for generous support for special

projects — in particular, Captain Wicknight's work amongst "alternative culture" groups in northern New South Wales.

NEW OFFICERS : Pray for those who have completed their training and are being admitted to the Office of Evangelist and commissioned as Church Army Officers. The new Australian Officers will be Captain Kevin Cullen and Sister Lorraine Dorrington. Captain Richard Dyer has been trained in Australia, to begin work as an Officer in the New Zealand Church Army.

Please pray that God will prepare them in every way for the task ahead of them.

CHRISTMAS : Pray for those who will be involved in services, beach missions, vacation schools and other activities over the Christmas/January period. Pray that the Christmas message may be the means of God becoming real in the lives of many people.

NEW POSITIONS: Pray for those officers who will be going to new work situations in the new year. Pray, too, for the people with whom they will work, and that the Holy Spirit may prepare those to whom they will go with the message of the Gospel.

Looking to the future

Your legacy to the Church Army could help to ensure the future training of men and women as Evangelists and enable the development of the Society's work in many areas of direct evangelism and Christian service.

For your guidance the following wording can be used as a clause or codicil in your Will.

and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer for the time being or other proper officer of the Church Army shall be a sufficient discharge for the same."

* Here insert the sum of money or the description of the houses, land, stock, shares, mortgage, debt or other property intended to be given.

property intended to be given.

Good Tidings

Over the course of a year, many letters arrive at the Federal Office — letters of support for the work, encouragement in particular areas, and, of great interest to us, news of people's own life experiences.

This letter arrived recently —

"I am happy to think that I have been associated with The Church Army for almost all of its 40 years. I remember their first visit to . . . and, as a result of this, a Mission was held there later. During that Mission I learnt what Christ meant to me. Over the years I have come to know the value of prayer and faith in His workings and trust that in some small way I may have been the means of showing His love to others . . ."

Discovery and proof of the effectiveness of the power of God in a person's life have been this lady's experience.

How easy it is for all of us to get caught up in the commercial web associated with Christmas! It is our hope, however, that this Season may still be a means of your knowing, in an increasing measure, the reality of God in you, and "faith in His workings" — "life more abundant."

"I bring you good tidings . . . unto you is born . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11)



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 1974

The Board Members, Officers and Students of the Church Army send their sincere Christmas greetings to all friends and supporters of our work.

Your Christmas gift to our funds, no matter how large or small it is, will be truly appreciated. It will be an expression of praise and thanksgiving to God for His goodness to us all and of the offering of your life and our lives, in His glorious service.

All we ask is for your help to enable us to continue the work of Evangelism in a practical and helpful way, so that those with whom we share the Gospel by word or by deed, may know there is a God who loves and understands them with a saving love.

Extracts from the Federal Secretary's Annual Report



The theme of our Staff Conference last January was "Proclaiming Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit." This is the constant work and privilege of Church Army evangelists in whatever spheres they minister. From visits to officers in the field and from the reports of their work, it is clear to me that our Captains and Sisters are faithful, effective and diligent in their proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

EXECUTIVE BOARD : Seven ordinary meet-

ings were held during the year under review, in addition to which the various committees of the Board also held numerous meetings to assist the effective working and development of the Society.

After ten years of faithful service as a Board member, Mr. Cecil Pearson resigned last October. Some months later Mr. Pearson suffered a severe stroke and died within a few weeks.

PERSONNEL & ACTIVITIES : Active officers

at the beginning of the year numbered 26, one new officer was commissioned, one officer resigned, thus the number at the end of the year remained at 26. The distribution of the officers was 3 at Federal Office and the Training College, 1 in charge of the Bookshop, 1 on leave of absence and the remaining 21 served in a wide variety of tasks in nine dioceses.

APPOINTMENTS — Those of particular note were Captain McKnight from part-time to full-time in an outreach ministry to "Alternative Culture" groups in northern New South Wales as from the 1st October, 1973. This required a step of faith by the Board to take on the full financial responsibility for this work. Considerable financial support came from individuals and some parishes, and then, at

the invitation of the Society, the Diocese of Grafton agreed to the venture becoming a joint one between the Church Army and the Diocese as from March, 1974. The Bishop of Grafton then appointed a Management Committee which has functioned very effectively.

STAFF SISTER — Sister Free was appointed Staff Sister at Federal Office as from the 1st January, 1974.

REQUESTS FOR OFFICERS — a significant feature of this year was the unprecedented number of requests for our officers. About 40 requests were received in the period October to March. Most of these were for parish evangelists and a few for youth leaders in parishes. Two of the requests we were able to fill were in the Armidale Diocese where we had not worked for many years.

MISSIONS — Three parish missions were held, one each in the Sydney, Bathurst and Brisbane dioceses. There appears to be renewed and growing interest in parish missions.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES — The Auxiliaries in Newcastle and Sydney again worked very hard to raise money in support of the Society. The total resulting from their efforts this year amounted to \$1010 and we are greatly indebted to all members for this splendid achievement.

TRAINING COLLEGE : A revised and en-

larged curriculum including the full Th.A course was put into effect at the beginning of the 1974 college year. The students continued to gain a wide variety of experiences in practical work including children's missions, youth camps, City Mission work, Girls' Home work, community centre work, general parish experience in different types of parishes, also deputation preaching.

CARPENTARIA, 1956

"I returned to the mission field, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, to the remote Edward River Mission, where it rains four months of the year, and you swelter for the other eight. One contacted the doctor by boat and aerial ambulance. In the wet weather we laid in stocks for four months, after that the boat called six-weekly. One's only contact with the outside world was the wireless. Here I taught the people how to sew and cook, and the Christian way of life".

SYDNEY, 1964

Sister joined the team of Church Army officers working in the Inner-City of Sydney. Her particular responsibility was amongst aboriginal people and carrying out a rescue work ministry amongst women and girls.

"I brought children in off the streets to a club room and Sunday School . . . visited homes . . . praying as I went for fear of being landed with a bottle . . ."

NEWCASTLE

From Sydney, it was back to Newcastle, where, since 1967, she has been on the Staff of the Cathedral, visiting in four of Newcastle's hospitals. Sister has also been involved with the Church Army Women's Auxiliary there.

Best wishes, Sister Johnson, in your retirement.



Right: Sister Johnson visiting a patient.
Left: Sister Johnson, a nursing sister and patients in a Newcastle hospital.



Sewing at Edward River Mission.



*A Christmas Message
from the Chairman
of the Board*

I offer you all my warmest greetings for Christmas, praying that God will bring home to us all the spirit of wonder that, in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son and fear and tension are so evident, because economic collapse and inflation are the twin horrors dragging this nation into trouble and frustration, it is good for us to pause and remember God's great love towards us.

We sometimes think that the spirit of wonder lies only in the realm of young children and the innocent, but God has given us the spiritual capacity to retain the element of wonder as we contemplate the length and breadth and height and depth of God's love towards man. If then we are apt to think that Christmas is a time for children, cannot we seek God's blessing for each one of us to live in this realm of trust and simplicity by asking him this Christmas never to allow us to lose the abiding joy of wonder. Do think about Christ's coming to redeem us and to give us the inheritance of the saints in glory by trust in His redeeming love.

We have not only the call to thank God for His redemptive love, but, as members of the Society of the Church Army, to thank Him for the practical outreach of our work over the past twelve months in parish mission, in social work and in preparing young men and women for full-time service. Let us remember that so much of the thrust of this work depends upon continuing prayer. We have the men and women able to do the work — we need to maintain them in this coming twelve months by prayer and sacrificial giving.

I take this opportunity to express the thanks of the Members of the Board to all who have served them and the Society over the past year. This includes officers and others employed by the Society, and all of you who have faithfully supported this work of evangelism. God bless you at Christmas and in the coming new year and, as you remember God's gift of His Son, do two things — give yourself afresh to Him and give material support to the work that is so near to His own heart.

Yours very sincerely,
Bishop F. O. Hulme-Moir

Your Christmas Gift may be sent to us in the enclosed envelope.



Kevin Cullen and Lorraine Dorrington have just completed the two-year course at the Training College, and will spend their first year as officers in the field in 1975.

READY TO GO

"... the best ... yet to come"

It has been said that, in the Christian life, "the best is always yet to come." Indeed, this has been our testimony, and we know that it will continue to be so. College training is almost completed and we feel the motivation of the Holy Spirit to "... bear the news to every land." We know that the command of our Lord to "Go forth and tell" still applies to His people today. Therefore, as a family, we see our future life with the Church Army taking the form of adventure, witness and service.

The adventure has already begun. God has not been idle during our training period — on the contrary, His provision has been constant and His blessings abundant. Our hearts are filled with praise and thanks to God for His call to us, His undying love and the privilege of serving Him as Evangelists within His Church.

Evangelism is our ministry and we see it in the context of the gifts given by Christ to His Church. "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists ... Ephesians 4:11. The Gospel is our message, "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ." Romans 10:17.

As we go out "in the name of Jesus," it is in the sure knowledge that His Spirit is going before us to prepare the way ahead. We know that the victory is already won through the shed blood of Christ. We also share His victory and we have His guarantee, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." St. Matthew 16:18.

The message of Jesus Christ is relevant to the world and to the needs of men today. We see the ministry of evangelism as an overcoming power for the extension of Christ's kingdom. "... this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith." 1 John 5:4.

Together, with our thanks to Almighty God, we extend our thanks and gratitude to all who supported us in prayer and other ways during the past two years. Now, as we look to the future with our eyes fixed on Jesus, we anticipate, the best yet to come.

"We have heard a joyful sound, Jesus saves."

Throughout the last two years, many people have asked me why I came into Church Army. I suppose at first it was because the work of the Society interested me, but now I know that this is where God wants me to serve Him.

I could look back at my formal training and become very nostalgic. My practical work this year was spent as Parish Sister in the Sydney suburb of Villawood — an area that could be referred to as an "old New Housing Area." As well as working at Villawood, I was given the opportunity of going to Melbourne and Brisbane for the Society's 40th Anniversary preachments in those cities. I also fulfilled the task of Acting Matron for eight days at Lisgar House, a home for teenage working girls, at Arncliffe in Sydney. All these experiences will prove invaluable to my future work.

Over the last two years, I have seen the Lord's hand at work, helping me to cope with the many situations in which He has placed me, constantly showing me that the words

